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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
GREAT FALLS DIVISION**

WESTERN ORGANIZATION OF)
RESOURCE COUNCILS, *et al.*,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

U.S. BUREAU OF LAND)
MANAGEMENT,)

Defendant, and)

STATE OF WYOMING,)

Intervenor Defendant.)
_____)

Case No. 4:20-cv-00076-BMM-JTJ

**FEDERAL DEFENDANT'S
STATUS REPORT**

Pursuant to the Court’s January 4, 2024 Order, ECF No. 95, Federal Defendant U.S. Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) hereby submits this status report regarding BLM’s progress in completing the resource management plan amendment process. The BLM Buffalo and Miles City Field Offices completed their reviews and responses to the public comments received on their respective Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (“SEIS”). The field offices prepared administrative Final SEISs and, on February 21, 2024, initiated cooperating agency reviews on the documents. After receiving cooperating agency comments, the field offices made necessary revisions and provided the Final SEISs to BLM and U.S. Department of Interior leadership for final reviews. On May 17, 2024, BLM published the Final SEISs and issued Notices of Availability, which initiated the 30-day public protest period and the 60-day governor’s consistency review. The protest period ended on June 17, 2024, and the governor’s consistency review ended on July 16, 2024.

Subsequently, the BLM Wyoming and Montana/Dakotas State Directors received and responded to the respective governor’s consistency response letters on the Final SEISs/Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments (“RMPA”) issued by the Buffalo and Miles City Field Offices. The BLM Director also received protests regarding the Final SEISs/Proposed RMPAs and issued a Protest Resolution Report for each field office, with BLM Director responses, at the end of

October.¹ The BLM Director issued responses to the appeals from the Montana and Wyoming governors on November 6, 2024. The BLM Director signed the records of decision for the RMPAs on November 20, 2024,² and the records of decision were published on November 27, 2024.³ Therefore, the planning processes ordered by the Court are now complete, and the case can be closed.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of December 2024.

TODD KIM
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¹ See <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/protest-resolution-reports>.

² Montana ROD on ePlanning:
https://eplanning.blm.gov/projects/2021155/200534253/20123920/251023900/2024_MCFO%20ROD_20241120_508.pdf;
WY ROD on ePlanning:
https://eplanning.blm.gov/projects/2021239/200533937/20123692/251023672/BFO%20RODRMPA_508.pdf.

³ Montana Federal Register Notice:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/11/27/2024-27678/notice-of-availability-of-the-record-of-decision-and-approved-resource-management-plan-amendment-for>;
Wyoming Federal Register Notice:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/11/27/2024-27677/notice-of-availability-of-the-record-of-decision-and-approved-resource-management-plan-amendment-for>.

/s/ Luther L. Hajek

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